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News Publication — Montana State Planning Board

New Engineer On SPB Staff

Everett V. Darlington, a native of Bozeman, has been added to the staff of the State Planning Board in the capacity of Industrial Engineer, announced D. P. Fabrick, Chairman.

Darlington attended Bozeman schools, and graduated from Montana State College in Industrial engineering in 1941. From 1943 to 1952 he was employed by General Electric Company in Schenectady, New York, as a test engineer on electronic weapons and coordinator with the Defense Department on weapons research. Since 1952 he has engaged in business in Bozeman.

Darlington, who assumed his new duties July 1, will work in the general fields of helping small business in Montana, feasibility studies for new products, and new uses for Montana resources, Perry Roys, Director of the State Planning Board, stated.



"Everett Darlington is a welcome addition to our staff," Roys added. "We will now be able to give closer attention to the more technical aspects of industrial location and operation. This will include a greater concentration on expansion of existing small businesses, better use of our vast resources, and more intensive efforts to disclose opportunities for development in diversified manufacturing categories."

Other members of the staff include Perry Roys, Director; David K. Hartley, Planning Assistant and Laurie McCarthy, Office Manager.

WHY INDUSTRIAL DEVELOPMENT?

Why do we need industrial development in Montana?

We at the State Planning Board are often asked this question.

One answer can be given in the form of a significant fact. Each year, MONTANA'S NON-AGRICULTURAL EMPLOYMENT VARIES BY 20,000 WORKERS BETWEEN FEBRUARY AND AUGUST.

On the other hand, unemployment in non-agricultural industries increases by 12,000 each February over August.

TYPICAL SEASONAL INDEX OF NONAGRICULTURAL EMPLOYMENT IN MONTANA
1948-1954

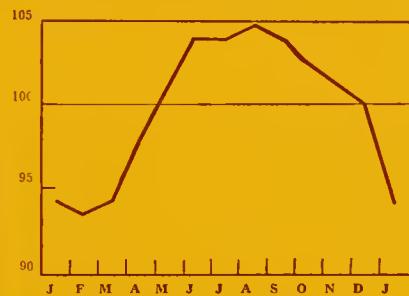


Chart prepared by Bureau of Business and Economic Research, MSN.

This large seasonal variation in employment comes primarily from the force of climate. Lumber, outdoor construction, tourism, and agriculture exemplify weather-controlled industries, and these form much of the basic industry in Montana.

This seasonal unemployment has several unfortunate effects on our economy:

1. Unemployment insurance rates are somewhat higher for seasonal industries.
2. We do not use our total labor force at its full capacity.
3. Trades and services typically have less sales during the winter, since there is unemployment in basic industry.

Expand Non-Seasonal Industries

One of our objectives is expanding our state's non-seasonal industries or getting new ones to come in, thereby lessening the degree of total seasonal unemployment.

As the Bureau of Business and Economic Research at Montana State University comments, not all manufacturing industries are equally desirable from the point of view of alleviating seasonal unemployment. In recent years, there has been some expansion in such industries as oil refining and smelting of nonferrous metals, which exhibit little seasonality.

In their efforts to attract new industries, Montana communities might well

Now's the Time for City Planning Budgets

The State Planning Board is preparing an application for federal city planning aid for Montana cities under 25,000 population.

Under this program the U. S. Housing and Home Finance Agency pays up to half the costs of a local planning program. Bozeman now has a grant of \$7,350, which it is using to prepare a complete master plan for Bozeman and surrounding area. The City of Bozeman has matched this federal grant with \$4,350 in cash and \$3,000 in services by city employees, such as the city engineer and city manager.

In Montana all communities under 25,000 people (1950 census) apply for this aid through the State Planning Board. Montana's three cities over 25,000 population, Billings, Butte, and Great Falls, have all submitted applications directly.

The State Planning Board has received word from the Congressional delegation in Washington that possibilities are good for increasing this federal program next year. Even though the increase in funds for fiscal 1959 is approved, though, the money is being allocated to various states very quickly. Therefore, if Montana communities are to receive their share, application will have to be made immediately.

Submit Budgets

The Board has requested that all city-county planning boards send in an estimate of their available funds for next year immediately after the county commissioners and city council have made provision for local funds from either the one-half mill levy or other sources. A coordinated application to HHFA for several communities will then be made.

This is the best way for local people to get started on city planning program. Now is the crucial time—in a few weeks it may be too late.

consider the seasonal pattern of the industries under consideration. A plant which would merely intensify existing problems of seasonal unemployment may prove in the long run a liability rather than an asset.

Seasonal Employment May be Asset

On the other hand, if the labor demands of a plant providing only seasonal employment occur at a time when other employment is declining, or if a supply of seasonal labor (such as students or housewives) is readily available, such an operation might be a welcome addition. A good example is a sugar beet refinery, which absorbs seasonal agricultural labor in the winter.

Montanans tend to be complacent about their good life.

But what about such problems as seasonal unemployment? Shouldn't we be doing more about that?

Zonolite--World's Largest Vermiculite Producer

Few Montanans know that the world's largest vermiculite operation is from a solid mountain of the material—"Vermiculite Mountain"—seven miles northeast of Libby.



The special conveyor Zonolite has built across the Kootenai River to the Great Northern tracks.

Operator of the mine and mill is the Zonolite Company, a Montana corporation capitalized at \$1.2 million with headquarters in Chicago. The company has been mining at Libby since 1923, and is the second largest employer in the Libby area (after J. Neils Lumber Company). Employment runs about 110 the year around and the payroll is \$600,000 per year.

Largest Use: Insulation

Vermiculite is a form of mica, and was termed "rotten mica" by old prospectors. The mineral has many uses, largest of which is as a loose fill insulation. A size with smaller particles is used as lightweight aggregate for concrete. Mixed with plaster, it is used in place of sand for walls and ceilings. Other representative uses include: soil and fertilizer conditioner; chicken litter; and insulation for hot ingots shipped from a steel mill.

The company's research department in Chicago is constantly investigating new uses for the mineral. For instance, a new insulation and lightweight aggregate combining wood pulp and vermiculite has been developed. Since vermiculite sparkles, it is being used as a decorative additive to polyethylene tile.

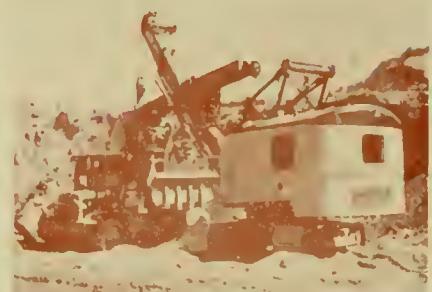
Open Pit

"Vermiculite Mountain" is a 4000-foot hill with a rounded top. The entire top of the hill is terraced into 20-foot layers, from which the ore is mined by open-pit methods. Zonolite is gradually mining down through the mountain. Company officials say they don't know how deep the deposit runs, but they have staked out enough to last 150 years.

Present mining rate is about 500 tons of concentrate per day. Only 7 per cent of the mined ore ends up as vermiculite concentrate.

Vermiculite concentrate from the Libby operation is shipped in bulk form

to 40 processing plants all over North America. The only such plant in Montana is the Robinson Insulation Company in Great Falls. At these plants the loose ore concentrate is put through 2000 furnaces. This heat treatment expands the material to approximately 12 times its original size. The material is then



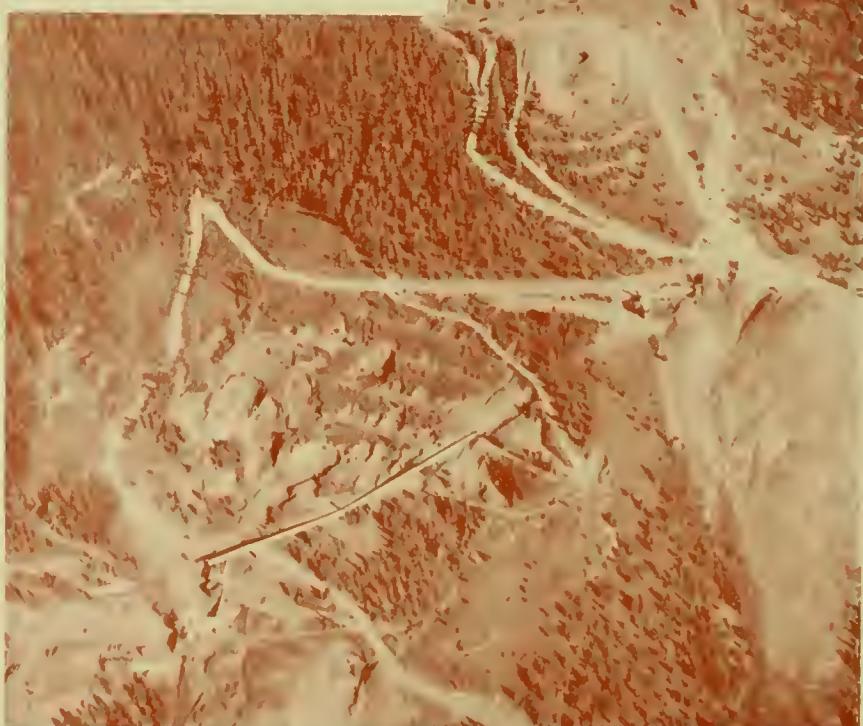
All Zonolite mining operations are open-pit.

cooled and packaged. Zonolite's only mine other than the one at Libby is at Traveler's Rest, South Carolina, and is a much smaller operation.

Uses With Montana Products

The company wants to find new uses for vermiculite in Montana. It is especially interested in new products arising from combining vermiculite with other materials, such as clay, straw, wood products, and concrete.

Montana should be proud of its existing industry. If you're passing through the Libby area, make a point of touring the Zonolite vermiculite operation. You won't regret it.



A view of "Vermiculite Mountain" from which the Zonolite Company mines about 100,000 tons of ore per month. Note the series of open-pit terraces in upper right, and the mill in the lower left. The mill processes about 500 tons of vermiculite per day.

State Has Significant Economic Growth

Montana is growing industrially.

According to figures recently released by the U. S. Bureau of Census, Value Added by Manufacture increased 72.0 per cent between 1954 and 1956 in Montana. During the same period, Value Added increased by 35.8 per cent in the other seven Mountain States, and by 19.5 per cent in the United States as a whole.

Value Added by Manufacture is defined as "value of manufactured products shipped (excluding resales) less the cost of materials, supplies, fuel, electric energy, and contract work." It is considered an excellent indicator of economic activity.

Value Added by Manufacture in Montana amounted to \$141,234,000 in 1954, and \$242,701,000 in 1956. The 1954 figures are from the 1954 Census of Manufacturers, and the 1956 figures from a representative sample of manufacturing establishments.

Lumbering Still Tops

Lumber and wood products continue to be the largest type of manufacturing activity in Montana, accounting for over a fourth of the Value Added, and nearly 40 per cent of the employment. Lumber and wood products includes logging camps; saw and planing mills; veneer, lath, shingle, and plywood mills; mill-work and wood preserving plants; and establishments manufacturing certain finished wood articles. In Montana, the industry is based chiefly on the production of lumber. An excellent summary of the state's lumber industry is contained in the November, 1957, issue of "Montana Business Review," available free from the Bureau of Business and Economic Research at Montana State University, Missoula.

Other significant manufacturing activities in Montana include smelting and refining of nonferrous metals (copper, lead, zinc, aluminum), sugar beet refining, and petroleum refining. Manufacture of machinery and consumer goods is relatively unimportant.

Consumer Goods Represent Potential

Expansion of the resource-oriented manufacturing activities, such as those already here, represents the best potential for Montana. However, we should not ignore the opportunity for making other products to serve growing Montana and Western markets.

Joint sponsorship of a comprehensive mineral exploration and geological mapping project in Flathead, Lake, and Lincoln counties in cooperation with the Montana Bureau of Mines and Geology is being undertaken by the Great Northern Railway and Pacific Power & Light companies. Goal of the five-year program is the location of mineral deposits and other raw materials that can be developed by industry to help stimulate the expansion of the economy of western Montana communities. A Bureau field office has been established in Kalispell, from which a staff of geologists will direct the project. A free minerals identification service will be offered there.

GOOD MEMBERS IMPORTANT TO LOCAL PLANNING BOARDS

Local governments should make sure competent, hard-working members are appointed to city-county planning boards.

Probably nothing is so important in the initial stages of planning as appointing members who will stand up for planning once the master plan is completed, and who are willing to devote some time and effort toward getting a factual plan.

Herbert Smith, Executive Director of Community Planning Associates, Princeton, New Jersey, in the February, 1958, issue of "American City Magazine" says almost anyone of better than average intelligence who is willing to really try to do a job, is capable of being a good planning board member.

However, Smith lists five types to watch out for:

- 1. THE POLITICALLY AMBITIOUS—always anxious to please everybody.
- 2. THE SELF-STYLED EXPERT—he knew it all before, and he certainly isn't going to learn now.
- 3. THE VESTED INTERESTED PERSON—he may know more about road building than anyone in the state, but if he is selling blacktop to developers locally, the very potential of criticism is dangerous.
- 4. THE BMIC—as the big man in the community, he will be too busy to

do the job right and will want to influence too many decisions.

- 5. THE LEGAL EAGLE—this doesn't mean every lawyer by any means, but it does mean the one that thinks planning and zoning are just legal matters, not to be understood by the layman.

Chairman Is Sparkplug

Smith also emphasizes the importance of the chairman. "No agency goes without a sparkplug. The chairman is the heartbeat of the board and has a bigger responsibility in the planning function than in most others. It isn't simply a matter of presiding at one meeting a month and keeping everybody happy. It's setting the pace for program and progress; it's making certain the interests of the entire community are represented; it's needling the politicians for money and support; and it's a thousand things of equal importance."

When your city council and county commissioners set up a planning board, as so many have done in Montana, they should be told of the importance of appointing effective, conscientious members.

"It is better to have a board full of uninformed, but sincere citizens than to have a theoretical high level board not interested or too busy to do the job."

CHECKLIST ON NEED FOR PLANNING IS YOUR TOWN LIKE THIS?

- There is a mixture of houses and shacks in residential areas, and this condition discourages good construction and keeps residential assessments low.
- The downtown area is characterized by gaps and by a variety of building setbacks.
- There is no public open space suitable for a park, even though there is a lot of vacant land scattered through town.
- The street system makes little distinction between main traveled streets and residential streets (trucks passing in front of your house).
- No large subdivision carefully planned has been developed—only a series of small, uncoordinated developments.
- Highways leading into town are lined with unsightly junkyards and other businesses which do not have to be on the highway, and which do not contribute to the town's beauty.
- New subdivisions are without adequate water or sewers, and there is no immediate prospect of good service.
- It is nearly impossible to find a parking spot in or near the business district.
- New subdivisions have streets which are uncoordinated with the town's existing street pattern.
- Children have to cross heavily traveled streets going to and from school.
- Everybody complains that taxes are too high, but nobody seems to know the reason why.
- There is no established procedure for submission and approval of new subdivisions.
- Areas near railroads and close to the highway which are suitable for industrial use are not protected against possible encroachment by residences.

These conditions are capable of solution. Urban planning is the means. Montana cities are fortunate in that they can legally plan across city limits. Make sure your city has an official city-county planning board.

Montana Small Businesses—Key to Development

The key to successful industrial development is helping small businesses with a future with their growth problems.

We in Montana have some small manufacturing concerns that have growth potential. People with ideas about making a new product or tapping a new market abound in each of our communities.

Following are stories about two of these businesses:

Designs Unique Heating System

Alfrey A. Hansen, President of H. & N. Sheet Metal Fabricating Company in Deer Lodge, is a man who knows the heating business inside and out.

Five years ago he was working on a heating job in Deer Lodge and ran into a problem of heating the floor first, because heat normally rises straight up to the ceiling. To meet this problem, Hansen designed and patented the Solair Baseboard Diffuser, which keeps the floor temperature higher than the ceiling temperatures. The diffuser replaces wall registers and can be installed on any forced air system.

He is now manufacturing his product on a limited scale in his sheet metal plant in Deer Lodge, employing three men. These diffusers have been installed in homes in Deer Lodge, Butte, Helena and Missoula, as well as office buildings in Garrison and Deer Lodge. However, Hansen plans to market throughout Canada and the West as soon as he is able.

This is another example of a local man who is trying to get a good idea into efficient production. Maybe the "Solair Baseboard Diffuser" will grow into a major industry, shipping a specialized product all over the country.

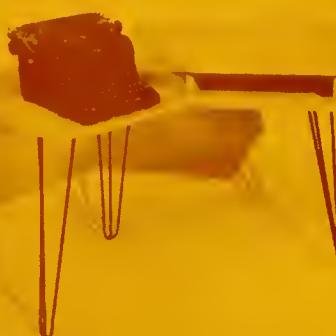


Babies can lie on the floor when a Solair Baseboard Diffuser is installed.

TYPEWRITER DESK MADE BY KEN BLEVINS

A young Missoula man is making one of the smoothest-looking products seen anywhere.

Ken Blevins last year was studying education at Montana State University. One day he was looking for a small table on which to put his typewriter. Finding none, he went home and made one from plywood and tubular steel. The table he designed was so practical that he decided to quit school and produce and sell his invention full-time.



From such small beginnings often come successful enterprises. Blevins has patented his table (see cut), and hires three part-time workers in a Missoula garage. He does his own selling, and dealers all over the West and Pacific Coast are now selling the "Type-Write Desk."

Blevins is making a specialized product, one which could be made and sold anywhere.

How many home-town inventors like Ken Blevins live in your town? What can you do to help him get his invention into production and expand into a money-making project?

BRIEFS . . .

Copies of the "Proceedings" of the Community Development Conference held in Butte last January 23-24 are now available. Published by Montana State University, co-sponsors of the conference, the booklet summarizes all speeches and discussions at the conference. Those attending the conference will especially remember the inspiring talks by Dr. Randall Klemme and Stuart P. Walsh.

Six of the major talks given at the conference are reprinted in full in the January and March, 1958, issues of "Montana Business Review," published by the Bureau of Business and Economic Research at MSU.

Copies of all these publications are available free and in quantity from the State Planning Board in Helena.

May building permits totaled 584 this year, up 86 from May, 1957. Their value totaled \$4,057,864, according to the Minneapolis Federal Reserve Bank. May is a significant month for construction in Montana, and it would appear that 1958 will be a good year. Great Falls led the state, in May, with 137 permits, aggregating \$1,464,426.

A state-wide Montana Small Woodlands meeting has been called for September 24, 1958, in Helena, by the U.S. Forest Service and the Montana State Forester. Commenting on the purpose of the meeting, State Forester Gareth Moon stated that Montana contains nearly five million acres of private commercial forest land, and this plays a vitally important part in the state's economy. Over 14,000 owners hold forest land tracts with less than 5,000 acres each. Forest products from these lands will be needed to meet increasing future demands. At the Helena meeting, methods of cooperation between the small owners and state and federal forest programs will be discussed, in order to bring the small tracts into full productivity.

These areas of cooperation include tree planting, forest fire protection, and forestry practices. "If the small woodland properties meet their full potential, the owners will benefit greatly, as will the state and nation," Charles L. Tebbe, Regional Forester of the U. S. Forest Service, commented. All Montanans are invited to the meeting.

MONTANA STATE PLANNING BOARD

Sam Mitchell Building

Helena, Montana

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